# Federal Agency PKI Overview/KMS

#### Richard Guida, P.E.

Member, Government Information Technology Services Board

**Chair, Federal PKI Steering Committee** 



Richard.Guida@cio.treas.gov; 202-622-1552 http://gits-sec.treas.gov

### Government Perspective on Key Management Standards

- \* Government supports standards which:
  - \*Are open in nature (non-proprietary)
  - \*Promote interoperability of PKI products and clients
  - \*Fully implement X509 certificate path discovery and processing including policy mapping
  - **★**Support two key pairs signature, encryption
  - **★**Support encryption key recovery (business reasons)
  - \*Contain appropriate specificity so as to be unambiguous and clear to implementers

# Government Perspective on Key Management Standards (continued)

- \* State of standards today is:
  - \*Generally sufficient to support single product use within an enterprise
  - \*Problematic when trying to make different products interoperate
  - \*Many competing varieties in critical areas (e.g. CMP vs. PKCS)
  - \*Inconsistent and incompatible implementations even with single standard

# Environments in which encryption is needed are diverse

- \* Intra-agency personnel matters, agency management
- \* Interagency payments, account reconciliation, litigation
- \* Agency to trading partner procurement, regulation
- \* Agency to the public

# Current agency use of encryption is very limited

- \* Many PKI implementations among Federal agencies, but all use digital signatures
  - **\***SSL planned for encryption
- \* Agencies planning to use end-user PKI encryption in near term include:
  - **★**Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
  - **★**Social Security Administration (SSA)
  - **★**Department of Defense (already done w/Fortezza)
  - **\***US Patent and Trademark Office

## Interoperability Issues

- \* Policy interoperability
- \* Technical interoperability
- \* Interoperability among:
  - \* PKI products (CAs, RAs)
  - \* Directories
  - \* Client software (e.g., e-mail)
  - \* Hardware tokens, devices, drivers

# **Encryption Key Recovery**

- \* KRDP Phase I very successful
- \* KRDP Phase II is underway
  - \* FAA
  - \* SSA
  - \* State Department
  - \* Federal Bridge CA (interoperability)
- \* Key recovery essential for business reasons

## Federal PKI Approach

- Establish Federal PKI Policy Authority (for policy interoperability)
- Implement Federal Bridge CA using COTS (for technical interoperability)
- Deal with directory issues in parallel
  - Border directory concept
- Use ACES for public transactions

# Federal PKI Policy Authority

- Voluntary interagency group NOT an "agency"
- Governing body for interoperability through FBCA
  - Agency/FBCA certificate policy mappings
- Oversees operation of FBCA, authorizes issuance of FBCA certificates

## Federal Bridge CA

- Non-hierarchical hub ("peer to peer")
- Maps levels of assurance in disparate certificate policies ("policyMapping")
- Ultimate bridge to CAs external to Federal government
- Directory initially contains only FBCAissued certificates and ARLs

# **Boundary Conditions**

- Use COTS with "inclusive" architecture
- Use X509v3
- Support four levels of assurance
  - Rudimentary, Basic, Medium, High
  - Modeled after Canadian PKI
- FBCA use cannot be mandatory
- Focus requirements on agencies as certificate issuers, not relying parties

#### FBCA Architecture

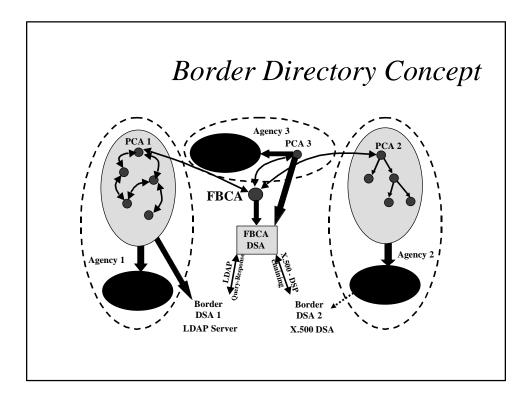
- Multiple CAs inside membrane, cross certified
  - Adding CAs straightforward albeit not necessarily easy
- Solves inter-product interoperability issues within membrane which is good
- Single consolidated X.500 directory

#### Current Status

- Prototype FBCA: Entrust, Cybertrust
  - Initial operation 2/00
- Production FBCA: add other CAs
  - Operation by late 00
- FBCA Operational Authority is GSA (Mitretek technical lead and host site)
- FBCA Cert Policy 12/99 to early 00
- FPKIPA Charter 12/99 to early 00

# Border Directory Concept

- Each agency would have Border Directory for certificates and CRLs
  - May shadow all or part of local directory system (allows for agency discretion)
  - CAs may publish directly in border directory
  - Unrestricted read access
- Directory resides outside agency firewall
  - $-\,$  chain (X.500 DSP) or LDAP referral to FBCA DSA



# Access Certs for Electronic Services

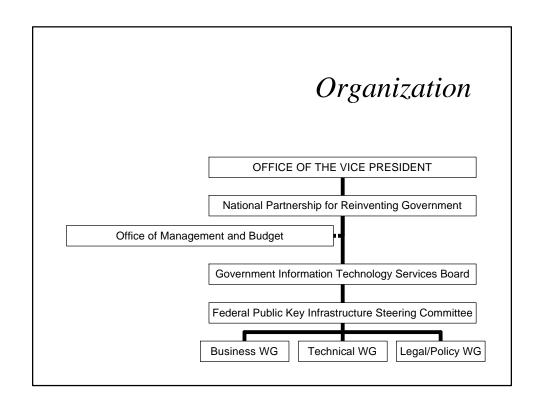
- "No-cost" certificates for the public
- For business with Federal agencies only (but agencies may allow other uses on case basis)
- On-line registration, vetting with legacy data; information protected under Privacy Act
- Regular mail one-time PIN to get certificate
- Agencies billed per-use and/or per-certificate

# Access Certs for Electronic Services

- RFP 1/99; bids received 4/99; first award 9/99 (DST), second award 10/99 (ORC), third award 10/99 (AT&T)
- Provisions for ACES-enabling applications, and developing customized PKIs
- Agencies do interagency agreement with GSA
- Certificates available shortly

## Electronic Signatures under GPEA

- Government Paperwork Elimination Act (October 1998)
- Technology neutral agencies select based on specifics of applications (e.g., risk)
  - But full recognition of dig sig strengths
- Gives electronic signature full legal effect
- Focus: transactions with Federal agencies
- Draft OMB Guidance 3/99; final 4/00



#### **Abbreviations** Access Certificates for Electronic Services •ACES •ARL **Authority Revocation List** •BCA Bridge CA •CA Certificate Authority •CMP Certificate Management Protocol •COTS Commercial Off-the-Shelf •CRL Certificate Revocation List •DSA **Directory System Agent** •DSP **Directory Service Protocol** •DST Digital Signature Trust •GSA General Services Administration •FBCA Federal Bridge CA

# Abbreviations (contd.)

• FPKIPA Federal PKI Policy Authority

• GPEA Government Paperwork Elimination Act

• KRDP Key Recovery Demonstration Project

• LDAP Lightweight Directory Access Protocol

• OMB Office of Management and Budget

• ORC Operational Research Corporation, Inc.

• PCA Principal CA

• PIN Personal Identification Number

• PKCS Public Key Cryptography Standard

• PKI Public Key Infrastructure

RA Registration Authority

• RFP Request for Proposal